



ALLEGANY COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Allegany County lies in the western portion of Maryland. Its 426 square miles (272,460 acres) is mountainous and picturesque with elevations ranging from less than 600 to nearly 3,000 feet. Farms dot its mountains and narrow valleys. The ruggedness of the terrain dictates a pastoral agriculture and livestock production, principally beef cattle, is the major farm enterprise. The county is quite variable in temperature, rainfall and snow cover among areas within the county and from year to year within areas. Soil type and capability are also variable.

Surface mining of coal and manufacturing are prominent industries but the latter is declining. Conversion of marginal wood and brush lands to agriculture directly by farmers and indirectly through the strip mining of coal is increasing both the actual agricultural acreage and the potential agricultural acreage of the county. This and other factors place the county in a favorable position for expanding livestock production, and the area awaits only economic incentive to do so.

Non-agriculturally, Allegany County's greatest resource is its natural beauty and historical association. The North Branch of the Potomac river forms its southern and eastern boundaries with neighboring West Virginia and the famous Mason-Dixon line its northern boundary with Pennsylvania. On the west, the county is bounded by Garrett, Maryland's western most county and formerly a part of Allegany County.

ALLEGANY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Crop	Year	Unit	Acreage Harvested	Average Yield	Total Production
Corn for Grain	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Corn for Silage	1997	Tons.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Soybeans	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Wheat	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*
Hay	1997	Tons.	9,800	1.9	18,400
	1998		8,000	3.0	24,100
	1999		7,600	0.9	7,000
Barley	1997	Bu.	*	*	*
	1998		*	*	*
	1999		*	*	*

Crop Production Rank among MD. Counties, 1999				Livestock Inventories Rank among MD. Counties, 1997 ¹	
Corn	3	Oats	3	Cattle	13
Wheat	3	Barley	3	Hogs	20
Hay	15	Soybeans	3	Sheep	18
				Milk Production	13 ⁵

ALLEGANY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Farm Numbers & Size ¹		1987	1992	1997
Number of Farms		240	219	239
Average Size (acres)		204	173	175
Land in Farms (acres)		48,941	37,802	41,928

Livestock (Number on Farms) ¹		1987	1992	1997
Cattle Inventory	Jan. 1	5,158	5,147	5,341
Hog Inventory	Dec. 1	462	160	153
Sheep Inventory	Jan. 1	338	462	241

Average Number of Milk Cows		1997	1998	1999
		600	500	500

Milk Production - 1,000 lbs.		1997	1998	1999
		10,800	9,000	9,000

Value of Sales ¹		1987	1992	1997
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----- Thousand Dollars -----

All Products	3,294	3,431	3,322
Crops	1,298	1,329	1,150
Livestock, Poultry and Poultry Products	1,996	2,102	2,172

¹ Source: Census of Agriculture, NASS.
² Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
³ Unranked - Data not published.
⁴ Revised.
⁵ 1999
* Acreage too small to publish.

MONTHLY WEATHER DATA - 1999

MONTH	AVERAGE TEMP. (F)	NORMAL 1961-1990	TOTAL RAINFALL (INCHES)	NORMAL 1961-1990
January	32.5	30.3	4.15	2.38
February	36.4	33.4	1.31	2.29
March	40.2	43.2	3.56	3.08
April	54.5	53.6	4.19	3.19
May	63.5	63.1	2.55	3.66
June	71.0	71.0	2.21	3.34
July	80.3	75.1	0.69	3.37
August	73.9	73.9	3.46	3.30
September	66.2	66.7	4.33	3.08
October	54.0	54.8	2.41	2.77
November	48.3	44.6	2.05	2.76
December	36.1	34.6	1.90	2.61
Annual	54.7	53.7	32.81	36.83

Number frost free days for 1999 181
Normal frost free days 1951-1980 168 *(1961-1990 Not available)*
Highest temperature 07-31-99 104
Lowest temperature 01-05-99 0

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Compiled by the Maryland Cooperative Extension Service
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